



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center, located at 600 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 280, Charlotte, NC 28202 at 4 p.m. on November 7, 2018.

## **PRC MINUTES**

### **November 7, 2018**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

**PRC Present:** Heidi Pruess, Chair  
Rick Winiker, Vice-Chair  
Peter Engels, Executive Secretary  
Sterling Martin  
Brian Cox  
Blanche Penn  
Doug Burnett  
Paul Freestone  
Mary Foxx Johnson  
Ann Harrison  
Rufus Kearney

**PRC Absent:** John Leonard  
Tristan McMannis

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Chair, Heidi Pruess, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

#### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Chair, Heidi Pruess, welcomed all to the November 7, 2018 Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

#### **Public Appearance**

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None

#### **Awards and Recognition:**

None

#### **Standing AC Reports and Appointments**

##### **North – Blanche Penn**

Commissioner Penn reported: Nothing new to report related to PRC priorities. Commissioner Penn did express concern regarding the communication of the Sr. Coupon program. Not all centers are promoting the program. Peter Cook, Deputy Director, said he would get with Terri and provide an e-mail update. Lorraine Bias, Sr. Fiscal Administrator, is scheduled to provide an update on the program at the January 8, 2019 PRC Meeting.

Commissioner Freestone reported that the Northern Towns recently met with Park and Recreation staff to discuss capital funding for the Beatty Street Park in Davidson. Peter Cook shared that staff asked that they provide the Department with the full build-out plan to include any possible funding in the County budget process. The Town of Davidson and their task force will get back with the Department.

Peter Cook shared that the Northern Towns are planning a Northern Towns Park and Recreation joint meeting to include our North Park Region Advisory Council and the PRC. Once details are available, they will be shared with the PRC and North Advisory Council.

Director Lee Jones and Peter Cook plan to meet quarterly with the Northern and Southern towns park staff for ongoing updates and discussion.

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Penn to reappoint Doug Welsh to a 1<sup>st</sup> full term on the North Advisory Council, expiring 6/2021, which was seconded by Commissioner Winiker and approved unanimously.

##### **Central – Peter Engels**

Commissioner Engels reported: No Report. The next Central Advisory Council meeting will be November 19 at 6 p.m. at Mahlon Adams, Freedom Park.

##### **South – Doug Burnett**

Commissioner Burnett reported: No Report

##### **Aquatics – Brian Cox**

Commissioner Cox reported: Budget concerns discussed at the Aquatics Advisory Council included:

- Fully funding the regional recreation center business plans

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- Funding for more free swim lessons
- Non-capitalized assets that were previously funded with Capital Reserve funds

### **Athletics – Sterling Martin**

Commissioner Martin reported: No Report. The next Athletics Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2018.

### **Cooperative Extension – Rick Winiker**

Commissioner Winiker reported: The Master Gardeners and Cooperative Extension will be hosting a farm-to-table luncheon on November 8 at the Mallard Creek Recreation Center.

### **Golf – Mary Foxx Johnson**

Commissioner Johnson reported: Golf canceled the August meeting and the next meeting will be November 20. Commissioner Harrison has been assigned as vice-chair of the Golf Advisory Council. Commissioner Johnson shared that the Golf Wall of Fame event set for May, 2019 will focus on accomplished female golfers.

### **Greenways – Rick Winiker**

Commissioner Winiker reported: The Greenway Advisory Council had their annual van tour which included:

- Site visit of the I-77 underpass that will ultimately connect Torrence Creek Greenway in Huntersville across I-77. It is important to continue to look for these opportunities across Mecklenburg County to open barriers and connect communities.
- A new stretch of greenway has opened off Randolph Road near the Mint Museum that crosses Catawba Land Conservancy land.
- Traveled to the southernmost section of the Cross-Charlotte Trail
- Commissioner Burnett had a positive meeting with Asset and Facility Management staff and residents of the Steele Creek area on Walker Branch to talk about a new section of dirt-way.

### **Sr. Citizens – Tristan McMannis**

Commissioner McMannis reported: No Report

### **Stewardship – Heidi Pruess**

Commissioner Pruess reported: Please refer to the report from the Stewardship AC which can be viewed here: [Stewardship AC Report 11/7/2018](#)

### **PRC Chair Report**

Chair Heidi Pruess reported on the following:

Advisory Council Reporting Form: The format for reporting back to the PRC from the Advisory Council meetings on PRC priorities can be updated. One suggestion might be to incorporate

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the priorities into the Advisory Council minutes for one document. However, it is important to keep the PRC priorities as part of each Advisory Council meeting to make sure these topics stay in the forefront of all discussions.

2019 Advisory Council Meeting Schedule: Please get your 2019 Advisory Council meeting schedule to Patsy Houston. This can also include tour dates and annual special events hosted by an Advisory Council.

PRC Retreat: With new Commissioners coming on the BOCC and PRC priority input from the Advisory Councils, Chair Pruess suggested that the PRC schedule a retreat in December with the goal of discussing structure and strategy for the coming year regarding how Advisory Councils work together and how the PRC report out. Commissioner Winiker felt this would be a good opportunity to develop the PRC “ask”. Following discussion, it was decided to hold a retreat on Saturday, December 15, 2018 from 9 to Noon.

Upcoming PRC Meetings: The January 8 PRC meeting will include discussion around budget input from the Advisory Councils. The February 12 PRC meeting is an All Advisory Council meeting to be held at 6 p.m. at the Bette Rae Recreation Center.

Communication and Equity and Access Ad-Hock Committees: Due to recent questions and concerns regarding communication of information out to our recreation centers and equity and access (geographic and fee issues with respect to access to facilities and programs), Commissioner Pruess asked for volunteers to participate on a Communication ad-hock committee and an Equity and Access ad-hock committee. Volunteers for these two committees will communicate with Chair Pruess. (Note: To expedite any request for information, those requests must first go through Director Lee Jones. Please copy Chair Pruess.)

## **Director’s Report**

Deputy Director, Peter Cook reported on the following:

Land Acquisition: A list of all parcels of land purchased by the County was provided to the PRC. [Park and Recreation Land Acquisitions for Fiscal Years 2013 - 2018](#) . The PRC asked if the cost of each of the parcels could also be provided. Deputy Director, Peter Cook, will get that information to the PRC.

Pearl Street Park Update:

- Construction and utility work will begin in June of 2019
- Charlotte Jr. Soccer will be able to use the Pearl Street Park Athletic fields through the Spring as well as Alexander Street Park and Tuckaseegee Park. Tuckaseegee will be getting new lighting.
- Myers Park Trinity Little League will be using Grayson Park ballfield

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- Pearl Street will be reactivated in 2021
- Land swaps associated with Pearl Street Park have been finalized.

Homeless Resources: Phone numbers for Urban Ministry Street Outreach Specialist were provided as a resource when homeless situations are encountered. The Department works with CMPD and the Urban Ministry to assist with homeless situations.

Waymer Center Update: Bids for this project have gone out and the goal is to have everything complete and brought on line next year.

Eastway Region Recreation Center Update: They have broken ground. Deputy Director, Peter Cook, will provide a project schedule.

### **Consent**

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Winiker to approve all consent items, including the PRC minutes of October 9, 2018, which was seconded by Commissioner Engels and approved unanimously.

### **PRC Reports and Requests**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The PRC attended the BOCC meeting and made their Annual Report.

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